Study on enforcement system on adulteration

711. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in India, adulteration of petrol and diesel is rampant largely because of easy availability at cheaper rate of kerosene and some solvents from petrochemical units;

(b) whether a joint team of senior officials was sent to Australia and Malaysia to study the enforcement system, which the oil companies in those countries had adopted to prevent the adulteration of petrol and diesel;

(c) if so, what are their findings; and

(d) by when these are likely to be given shape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Team during its visit observed that adulterants are being marked in Australia to prevent adulteration of petrol and diesel.

(d) No decision has been taken.

Research on Bio-Diesel

712. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to spend about Rs. 17.500 crores in the Tenth Five Year Plan on bio-diesel;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed investment, year-wise;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has recommended for setting up of a Commission for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No decision as such has so far been taken.

(c) and (d) Planning Commission has set up a Committee on Bio-fuel which has not submitted its report so far.

Impact of Crude prices on Oil Import

713. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of the recent increase in international crude oil prices on POL imports and the balance of trade;

(b) to what extent, the subsidies on POL have gone up; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to increase domestic POL prices in order to reduce subsidies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) A comparison of the quantum and value of the imports of crude oil and petroleum products during the period April—November 2002 with April —November 2001 is given below:

Period	Quantum of imports (in MMT*)	Value of Imports (in million US$)
April-November 2002	60.902	11,383.20
April-November 2001	55.116	9,676.80

*Million Metric Tonnes

(b) and (c) As of now, only PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG are subsidized products. Against the subsidy level of Rs. 4.05/liter and Rs. 115.63/cylinder respectively in the year 2001-02 on PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG, the corresponding subsidy in 2002-03 has come down to Rs. 2.45/litre and Rs. 67.75/cylinder respectively. Further, the existing subsidy will be phased out in the next three to five years.

Enhancement of Gas Production

714. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: